

shaping housing policy while helping the industry navigate the unprecedented challenges of the past decade. He devoted a great deal of his time to bringing together divergent views on housing finance reform and has spent hours acting as a valuable subject matter resource to policymakers on Capitol Hill along with multiple Administrations.

A frequent visitor to the nation's capital, Mike has been referred to as the "go-to source" in Washington for housing policy matters. He has testified before Congressional committees on numerous occasions and is known for his thoughtful approach and his in-depth and unbiased knowledge of the housing industry.

A native of Wisconsin, Mike joined Wells Fargo in 1988. During his twenty-seven years at the company, he has led the servicing function and acted as CFO before becoming president of the mortgage business. Wells Fargo was the nation's largest home lender during his tenure. But Mike hasn't always been perched at the top of the mortgage industry. He started at a small mortgage bank whose cash flow was so poor, that he determined he would have to sell the furniture to stay afloat. Mike draws his strength from his family; his wife, his son and his daughter. He now has extra incentive to spend more time with his family, having two granddaughters living in the Des Moines area. Full-time grandparent sounded awfully inviting to Mike.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mike's dedication to the greater Des Moines community, and his steadfast commitment to bringing the American dream of home ownership to so many. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mike and wishing him and his wife Diane nothing but the best as they plan this new chapter in their lives.

HONORING ANNE SAMSON

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy of Anne Samson. Anne was a selfless philanthropist who dedicated her life to serving her family and community.

A daughter of Hungarian Holocaust survivors, Anne was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Anne's love for Israel and the Jewish people illuminated much of her work. Anne and her husband, Lee, actively served within the Jewish community and volunteered in Israel following the Six-Day War.

Anne's philanthropy and selflessness touched many families, synagogues, and organizations. In her memory, the Samson family has helped establish the Anne Samson Memorial Fund which will provide assistance to the Jerusalem Journey summer program, in which hundreds of public school students have their very first Israel experience.

Anne's life demonstrated that it is often the quiet leader who is the most impactful. She led by example, motivated by her strong convictions and Jewish faith. Beloved by her family and community, Anne's legacy lives on in her children and grandchildren who carry on her graciousness, hospitality and dedication to service. It is my honor to commemorate Anne Samson's memory today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELLEN ROSENTHAL FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO CONNER PRAIRIE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ellen Rosenthal on the occasion of her retirement. For 10 years Ellen has served as President and CEO of Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, a beloved destination of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District located in Fishers, Indiana. Conner Prairie flourished under Ellen's leadership, and Hoosiers are eternally grateful for her contributions.

Ellen has a long history developing museums and exhibits. She planned the opening of historic houses at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, Minnesota and at the Frick Art and Historical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She also served as curatorial director for the American History Workshop in Brooklyn, New York, where she managed projects for the National Museum of American History, South Street Seaport Museum, and National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1999, Ellen began her career with Conner Prairie as Vice President of Internal Affairs, assumed a leadership role in 2003 when she was promoted to Executive Director, and in 2005 became President and CEO. Since then, Ellen played an integral role in transforming Conner Prairie from a traditional living history museum into the independent, immersive, and interactive history park it is today.

At the beginning stages of Conner Prairie's transformation, Ellen redefined the museum's mission to "inspire curiosity and foster learning about Indiana's past by providing engaging, individualized and unique experiences." She has a passion for creating and developing museums that offer active engagement and learning that transcends generations and strategic, data-driven decision making. A wonderful example of Ellen's vision put into action is the opening of the outdoor experience "Civil War Journey: Raid on Indiana," which used historical actors, sounds, and sets to place visitors in the middle of a southern Indiana Civil War battle. Her unique approach to focusing on experiential learning and guest immersion as well as her incomparable ability to build support and raise funds for new exhibits has resulted in more than a 240 percent increase in annual attendance. More than 360,000 guests visit Conner Prairie's historic grounds and indoor experiences annually.

During her tenure as President and CEO, Conner Prairie has received a number of honors and awards. Most notably, Conner Prairie was awarded the nation's highest honor for museums—the National Medal from the Institute for Museum Library Sciences. Conner Prairie also was selected as one of six museums nationwide to be featured as a magnetic museum, which is defined as "high-performance organizations that deliver tangible cultural and civic value and achieve superior business results." Under her leadership, Conner Prairie became a Smithsonian affiliate, the only museum in Indiana to hold such a distinction. Additionally, Ellen led the effort that secured a \$2.3 million National Science Founda-

tion grant in 2012 that empowers Conner Prairie to lead four American institutions in the integration of informal science experiments at historical sites and museums across the country.

Ellen's personal commitment to the community and success as a leader has not gone unnoticed. Governor Mike Pence is bestowing upon Ellen a Sagamore of the Wabash, one of the most prestigious honors in Indiana. She also received the Commitment to Creativity Trailblazer award from University High School (2014), the Torchbearer award from the Indiana Commission for Women (2013), was cited for Excellence in Innovation by the Indiana Innovation Awards (2012), named a Woman of Influence by the Indianapolis Business Journal (2008), and named a "Distinguished Hoosier" by Governor Mitch Daniels (2006).

As a personal friend and admirer of Ellen for over a decade, it is truly a privilege to honor her today for her many accomplishments. On behalf of the grateful constituents of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Ellen on the occasion of her retirement. We congratulate her on her remarkable career and extend a huge thank you for all of the wonderful contributions she has made to Conner Prairie and the Hoosier community. I wish the very best to Ellen, her husband, Dr. Ted Logan, and her three sons, Daniel, Sam, and Paul as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, LITTLETON, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Oak Grove Baptist Church located in my congressional district in Halifax County, North Carolina in the town of Littleton. The Church was founded in 1865 by Reverend Lovely Brown, Sr. and several faith leaders who devoted themselves to spreading the word of God.

One hundred fifty years ago, Reverend Brown and his small congregation of parishioners gathered to worship under a "bush arbor." Through steadfast faith and an unwavering dedication to its mission of faith and service, Oak Grove has grown from those humble beginnings to become a pillar of hope for its congregation and a cornerstone of the Littleton community.

On April 2, 1966, the church was destroyed by a devastating fire. Pastor J.W. Wiley rallied the congregation and the community to rebuild. The following year, Oak Grove held its first service in the newly built "Heritage Sanctuary."

Oak Grove is pastored by Rev. Dr. Charles McCollum, Sr. where the church continues to prosper under his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rev. Dr. McCollum, the parishioners of Oak Grove Baptist Church, and the residents of Littleton on this historic milestone.